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## MINOR NOTICES

Messrs. Duffield and Company have recently published a volume on *The Emancipation of the American City*, by Walter Tallmadge Arndt. The book deals in somewhat general fashion with the municipal reconstructions of the last twenty years, giving special attention to such matters as the home rule movement, ballot reform, the spread of direct legislation, the administration of the civil service system and various topics in municipal finance. The discussions are critical rather than expository and for the most part assume, on the part of the reader, some knowledge of the subjects treated. Neither in matter nor in method of presentation is there much that is new. In not a few paragraphs, moreover, the language, whether of criticism or of praise, is stronger than a dispassionate analysis of the facts would support. Nevertheless the book will make an effective appeal to those who like to drink their potions of reform propaganda with some ginger mixed in it.

For the general reader and the elementary student Prof. J. S. Young's *The State and Government* (Chicago: A. C. McClurg and Company, pp. 180) affords a brief excursion through the broad realm of political philosophy and governmental organization. On the whole Dr. Young has performed his task as capably as an enterprise of this nature could be performed, but the demands of brevity have been so rigorous that in many passages the virtue of clearness has had to be jettisoned. The theory of the social contract, with due mention of Hooker, Hobbes, Locke and Rousseau, for example, is reared and demolished in two pages, while the utilitarian theory of the state gets only a paragraph, and the juristic theory not even a line. Nor will the general reader derive a much more secure footing in the principles of political science from the author's discussions of government as a practical art. German colonies he tells us are "mostly in Africa." Portuguese colonies, likewise, are "mostly in Africa." Italy and Belgium have "parts of Africa." That is all we are told about the colonial systems of these four countries and it is surely not overmuch. The "general reader" could stand a more nutritious diet.

*The War of Positions*, by Lieutenant Colonel Paul Azan, with a preface by Brigadier General Joseph E. Kuhn of the United States Army (Cambridge: Harvard University Press pp. 186) is far more than a

short treatise on the art of fighting in trenches. While written primarily for the instruction of American officers who are going abroad it is full of interest for the student of military history or for any intelligent reader. Great strategic principles, as the author points out, have remained unchanged through the centuries, but tactics, which comprises the art of attack and defense at close quarters, has undergone extraordinary changes within a very few years. What Colonel Azan calls a "war of positions," a war of the mutual action and reaction of weapons on the one hand and of field fortifications on the other, has never before been waged on anything like the present scale. The book, accordingly, sets forth the general principles of tactics as developed by such a war and sets them forth in a way that even a tyro in military science can understand.

A new and revised edition of Prince von Bülow's *Imperial Germany*, with a foreword by J. W. Headlam, has been issued by Messrs. Dodd, Mead and Company. A large part of the book has been rewritten since the earlier edition appeared a few years ago and much of the new matter is of great current interest. There are entirely new chapters dealing with militarism and with Social Democracy. In the concluding portion of the book there is a discussion of the probable effects of the war upon German political institutions. As a defense of Germany's foreign policy and an exposition of German aims during the decades which have elapsed since the close of the great Bismarckian epoch this volume ranks first in point of clarity and authoritativeness as well as in the dignity and restraint of its style. It sets a standard far above the usual plane of contemporary war writings.

A useful compilation of *Important Federal Laws*, by John A. Lapp (B. F. Bowen and Company: Indianapolis) contains the text of a series of congressional statutes of more general interest and application, illustrating the growth and present status of the control exercised by the United States national government. These include the principal acts of congress relating to agriculture and horticulture, banking, immigration and naturalization, regulation of business, food and drugs, labor, taxation and revenue, interstate commerce, federal elections, national defense, and the federal criminal and judicial codes. Attention is called to the fact that more than two-thirds of these measures have been enacted or extensively revised since 1910, and more than one-half have been passed, revised or amended since June, 1916.

*The National Budget System* by Charles Wallace Collins (New York, The Macmillan Company, pp. 151) is a useful book on a subject of great present-day interest to students of political science. The intricacies of national finance are not easily expressed in simple terms but the author of the present volume set out to do this and on the whole he has succeeded. This is not because he has evaded or glossed over the difficulties but because he first explains with sufficient detail just how each of the great countries prepares its financial program for the year and then indicates where our own short-comings are. His criticism of the American system is incisive and to the point, but not overdone. The author's task was well worth doing and it has been skilfully accomplished.

Every five years the *Single Tax Year Book* presents an inventory of what has been accomplished by the movement for the taxation of land values. The quinquennial edition of 1917 (New York: Single Tax Review Publishing Company, pp. 460) contains a broad array of useful information for those who are interested in this subject. A feature of the publication is a series of articles dealing with the relation of the single tax to various social problems such as the regulation of child labor, the restriction of immigration and the control of large corporations. Not the least valuable pages in the volume are those (pp. 428-439) which contain a comprehensive bibliography of single tax literature, compiled by Arthur N. Young.

The initial volume of George C. Whipple's *State Sanitation* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, pp. xi, 377) contains an exhaustive review of the work accomplished during the last forty-eight years by the Massachusetts State Board of Health. This body, as students of public health problems are well aware, has been a pioneer in all branches of preventive medicine and public sanitation. In many things it has led the way to improved methods both in this country and abroad. Its history, therefore, is the history of public progress in the art of disease prevention during the last half century. A second volume, to appear during 1918, will contain articles on various topics chosen from the board's annual reports selected "to show the evolution of thought in the realm of sanitation." Professor Whipple's keen eye for the things that are interesting has enabled him to make his book readable throughout. That it will be of great service to special students of the subject is beyond question.

Students of municipal administration will find much to interest them in Dr. H. B. Wood's *Sanitation Practically Applied* (New York: John Wiley and Sons, pp. 473). There are admirable chapters on vital statistics, child welfare, school hygiene, milk inspection, water supply, sewage disposal and the education of the citizen in matters of sanitation. The discussion of even the most technical subjects is made simple and the practical side of every problem receives primary emphasis. In point of clearness and interest the style is much superior to that which readers encounter in most books of its kind.

To help social workers in gathering the best data and in putting it to the most effective use is one purpose of Dr. M. C. Elmer's *Technique of Social Surveys* (Lawrence, Kansas. The World Company, pp. 88). The mechanism of a social survey, the application of the survey to different features of community life and the interpretation of the data are some of the topics discussed. There is an all too brief chapter on publicity. The author has made his book thoroughly practical and it will be of distinct usefulness to those for whom it was written.

Two little volumes by Guy Morrison Walker entitled *The Measure of Civilization* (pp. 133), and *Railroad Rates and Rebates* (pp. 95) have been published by the Arthur H. Clark Company. In the latter volume the author endeavors to demonstrate that all rate reduction in the United States has been by means of rebates. The book concludes with a plea for the "repeal of all the foolish uneconomic and inequitable laws that hamper and interfere with our transportation facilities and that act as a ball and chain on the progress of civilization." Both volumes contain some good ammunition for the militant individualist.

The principles underlying industrial insurance, with a full discussion of both German and English practice, are included in *Workmen's Compensation* by J. E. Rhodes, 2nd, published by the Macmillan Company. Part of the volume sketches the history of the movement for industrial insurance in the United States with special emphasis upon the constitutional difficulties which were encountered. There is a good analysis of the laws now on the statute books of various states. Well selected lists of references are appended to each chapter. No better or more readable summary of the whole subject can be found anywhere than that which this volume places at the disposal of its readers.

The *Canadian Annual Review of Public Affairs for 1916*, edited by J. Castell Hopkins (Toronto: The Annual Review Publishing Company) is in large part devoted to a narration of events connected with the Dominion's participation in the war. There is, however, the usual discussion of political, social and economic happenings not connected with the great struggle. This work, of which the present annual volume is the sixteenth, ranks as one of the most useful reference works of its kind in any country. It deserves a place in every large American library.

Francis J. Audet's *Canadian Historical Dates and Events* (Ottawa: George Beauregard, pp. 239) is an extremely serviceable reference book because of its wide scope, completeness and accuracy. It contains many things, such as lists of Canadians who have received titles from the crown, the exact dates of treaties, the dates of charters granted to railways, etc. which are not elsewhere easy to find.

A fourth edition of Hinsdale's *American Government* has been issued by the American Book Company. Since its original publication more than twenty-five years ago this book has had and fully deserved a wide use as a school text book in all parts of the country. For this edition the book has been considerably revised by Miss Hinsdale and the type entirely reset.

*Ultimate Democracy and its Making*, by Newell L. Sims (A. C. McClurg and Company, pp. 347) is a history of democracy, a summary of democracy's exemplifications and a study of its relations to the social order, to economic activity and to international policy. To the perennial discussion of democracy, what it is and what it means, the book is a useful and in some ways a noteworthy contribution.

The fourth volume of Prof. Edward Channing's *History of the United States* (New York: The Macmillan Company, pp. 575) covers the period from 1789 to 1815 and includes several chapters of great interest to students of political science. Special mention should be made of those chapters which deal with the organization of the new federal government, the rise of political parties, and the downfall of Federalism.

Messrs. G. P. Putnam's Sons have issued a second and revised edition of James A. Woodburn's *American Republic and its Government*.

Various changes have been made, bringing this useful volume down to date.

*The Mexican Problem*, by C. W. Barron, published by Messrs. Houghton, Mifflin Company, endeavors to present a "business solution" of the existing chaos south of the Rio Grande. The book is based on the author's own investigations and is written in a picturesque style.

In response to various enquiries concerning the methods of classifying municipal documents and reports a pamphlet explaining *The Classification Scheme of the Library for Municipal Research at Harvard University*, by Joseph Wright, has been printed by the Harvard University Press.

The Commission to compile data for the Massachusetts constitutional convention has thus far printed thirty bulletins ranging in length from ten to one hundred pages as noted in the list of publications. Five further bulletins on the subjects of billboard regulation, woman suffrage, advisory judicial opinions, the regulation of the liquor traffic, and methods of amending state constitutions will appear shortly. Application for any of these bulletins should be made to the Secretary of the commission, Room 426, State House, Boston.